TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE Transcriber's Office FLOOR DEBATE

February 19, 2003 LB 13

legislatures could and should be doing to have oversight over a lot of things that were going on at the federal and state One of the things that he mentioned during that particular briefing was that we ought to have thought through whole succession question. And so after that, I got on the telephone with the Lieutenant Governor to ask him what his task force, or his policy group, was doing in this arena. indicated, at that present time, nothing. And so I decided that it might be worthwhile to at least start the discussion. the bill that's before you today affects only the executive branch of government. But there are other branches that we And for instance, if this should be thinking about as well. building was hit by a tornado at some time during session, and a lot of us were not around the next day to carry on, how would we fill all those seats? What if the Governor was in the building What if all the Supreme Court judges were the same time? holding session? These are things that are not very pleasant to think about, but at the same time, we probably need to think about. Now, I gave you a handout that shows exactly how the law now is regarding succession to the Governor. And you will see that it's first the Lieutenant Governor, and then the Speaker, and then the Chairman of the Exec Board. And then it goes down a list of committees. And the Committee on Committees Chair and then you go to Judiciary, Government, et cetera, et cetera, down the line. Well, in examining state statutes in other states, we determined that in most states they designate executive branch officers in that line of succession. They have the governor, and then they have the lieutenant governor, then they have the president pro tem, speaker of the house, and then they go to their attorney generals, secretaries of state, state treasurers, et cetera. And so that's what this bill is What we've done in this bill is put the patterned after. Speaker of the Legislature after the Lieutenant Governor, and then the Secretary of State, the Attorney General, State Treasurer, and Auditor of Public Accounts. And then after that would come other persons designated by law that would serve the remainder of the Governor's term. Now, I don't really care if you choose this particular method that I've brought before you today. I would like to hear some discussion of it. And I would like to move forward at some point on this issue. If you think this is an acceptable way to proceed, then that's good.